



AMERICA'S FIRST *and* GREATEST SUPERNATURAL!



No 37-
NOV.

ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

10¢

Out OF THE
FLAMES
IT CAME...
The VENGEFUL SPIRIT
OF A SAVAGE FROM
THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE
UNKNOWN!...THRILL TO...

"MASQUERADE
of DEATH!"

IT--- IT'S COMING
OUT OF THE FIRE!
HELP!





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IN AN ULTRA-MODERN PENTHOUSE, A GROUP OF MERRY REVELERS SUDDENLY TURNED HORROR-STRUCK BEFORE A GHASTLY INTRUDER! THERE, FROM OUT OF THE UNKNOWN, A FANTASTIC TERROR WAS STALKING AMONG THEM... THREATENING TO TURN THEIR INNOCENT COSTUME-PARTY INTO A...

MASQUERADE OF DEATH!



AT A MANHATTAN SMART-SET COSTUME PARTY--

WHAT A CLEVER IDEA FOR A COSTUME, PETE... THE OUTFIT OF YOUR DUTCH ANCESTOR-- **PETER MINUIT!**

COME WITH ME-- I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT **GAVE** ME THE IDEA!

A MUMMIFIED HEAD OF AN INDIAN... WHAT A **BIZARRE** DECORATION!

AH, BUT THIS ISN'T JUST AN **ORDINARY** INDIAN-- THIS IS ACTUALLY THE HEAD OF **BENT ARROW**, THE YOUNG CHIEF WHO SOLD MANHATTAN ISLAND TO MY ANCESTOR! PROF. GRAVES, HERE, CAN BEAR OUT MY STORY!

AS CURATOR OF INDIAN RELICS AT THE MUSEUM, I WAS ABLE TO MAKE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION! ONLY TWO INDIANS WERE EVER MUMMIFIED IN THIS WAY -- ONE WAS BENT ARROW, AND WE HAVE THE OTHER AT THE MUSEUM!



HE CERTAINLY LOOKS FIERCE... BUT HE WASN'T MUCH OF A **BUSINESS MAN!** IMAGINE SELLING THIS WHOLE ISLAND FOR A TRUNKFUL OF BEADS!

ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, HIS TRIBE NEVER GAVE HIM PERMISSION TO SELL IT AT ALL! BUT BENT ARROW NEEDED WAMPUM, TO BUY HIMSELF THE INDIAN PRINCESS, **PALE SHADOW!** AND SO...

... AND SO HERE I AM, DRESSED AS PALE SHADOW, AS PETE SUGGESTED!

YOU LOOK TERRIFIC, SALLY! NO WONDER BENT ARROW LOST HIS HEAD!



BRRR! WHAT A SINISTER LOOKING FELLOW HE WAS! PALE SHADOW MAY HAVE LIKED HIM, BUT HE SURE DOESN'T APPEAL TO ME!

ACTUALLY, **SHE** DIDN'T LIKE HIM EITHER! BENT ARROW HAD A PRETTY EVIL REPUTATION! MAYBE I'VE BEEN STUDYING INDIAN LORE TOO LONG... BUT IT RATHER CHILLS MY SPINE THE WAY PETE DISMISSES THE REST OF THE LEGEND ABOUT HIM SO LIGHTLY!

COME ON, YOU TWO, LET'S JOIN THE FUN!



THE PARTY PROGRESSED, GREW MORE BOISTROUS WITH THE PASSING HOURS-- WHILE, FORGOTTEN ABOVE THE MANTLE, THE GRINNING HEAD LEERED DOWN WITH OMINOUS AND TIMELESS PATIENCE --

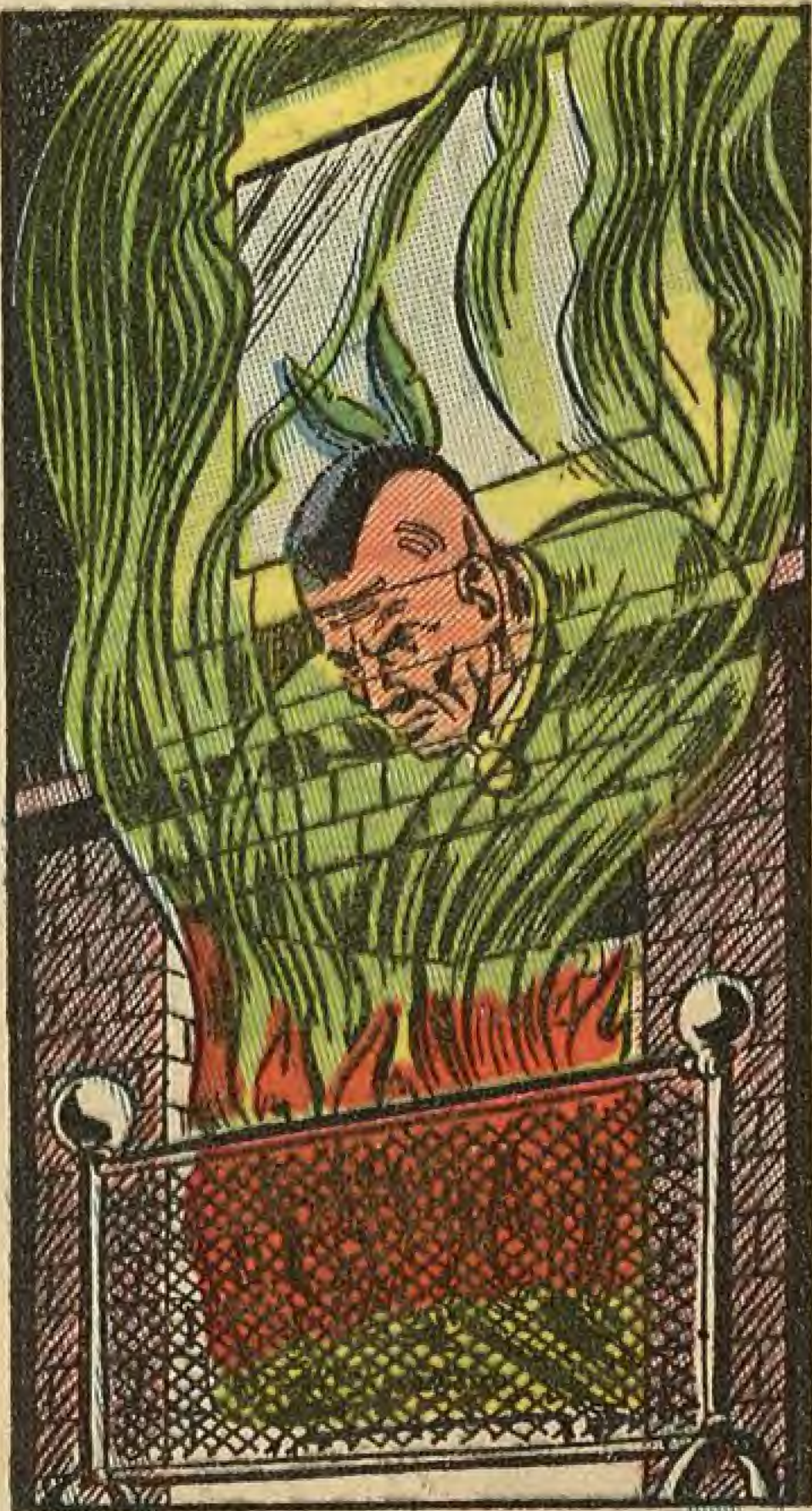
THEN, AS THE PARTY GREW WILDER STILL, A DANCER'S SHOULDER BRUSHED THE MANTLEPIECE, AND...

TAKE IT EASY, TONY, I'M GETTING DIZZY!

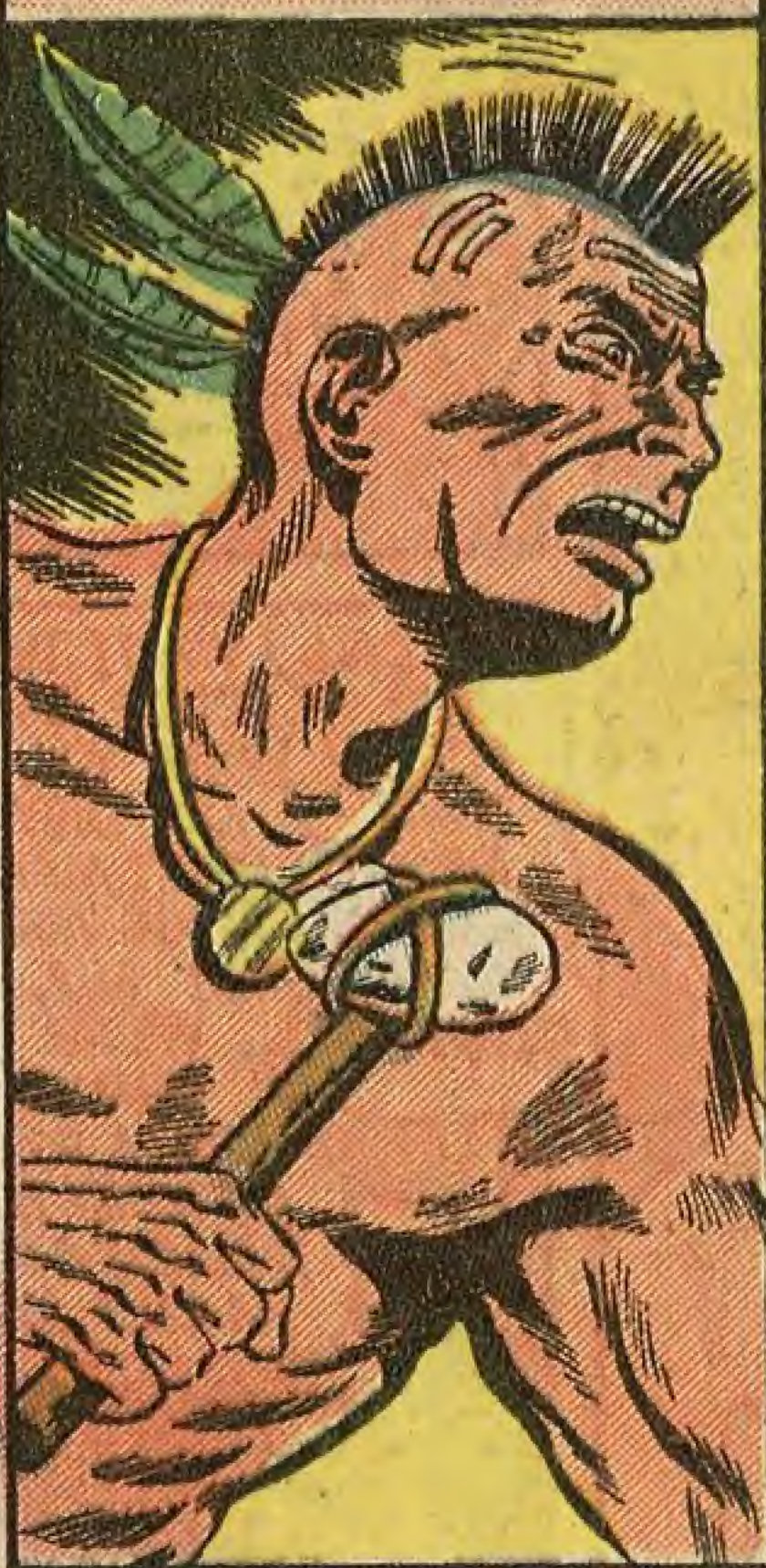
UNERRINGLY, AS THOUGH GUIDED BY THE HAND OF FATE, THE HEAD TOPPLED UNNOTICED INTO THE FIRE! THE HISSING FLAMES FLARED SUDDENLY WITH A GREEN, UNEARTHLY LIGHT...



THEN, THE SWIRLING COLUMN OF SMOKE SUDDENLY TOOK FORM!



... AND OUT OF THE FIRE EMERGED A GRIM AND TERRIFYING FIGURE!



HEY! WHO'S THAT IN THE INDIAN COSTUME? JUST LIKE OLD PETE TO HAVE A **SURPRISE GUEST** COME DRESSED AS BENT ARROW!

HEY, BIG CHIEF, WHERE'S YOUR SQUAW?



GREAT SCOTT! WHAT KIND OF GAG IS THIS?

HEY, TAKE IT EASY... AGHH!



IT'S NO GAG! THERE'S A LUNATIC RUNNING AMOK! QUICK-- RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!



WHAT TH--?



HOLY SMOKE-- HE'S IN-HUMAN!

YOU-- WHITE MAN WHO CHEAT ME! MUST DIE!



THEN, AS THE HEAVY WAR CLUB WAS POISED FOR A CRUSHING BLOW--

YOU-- PALE SHADOW, BENT ARROW'S SQUAW!

NO! STAY AWAY!

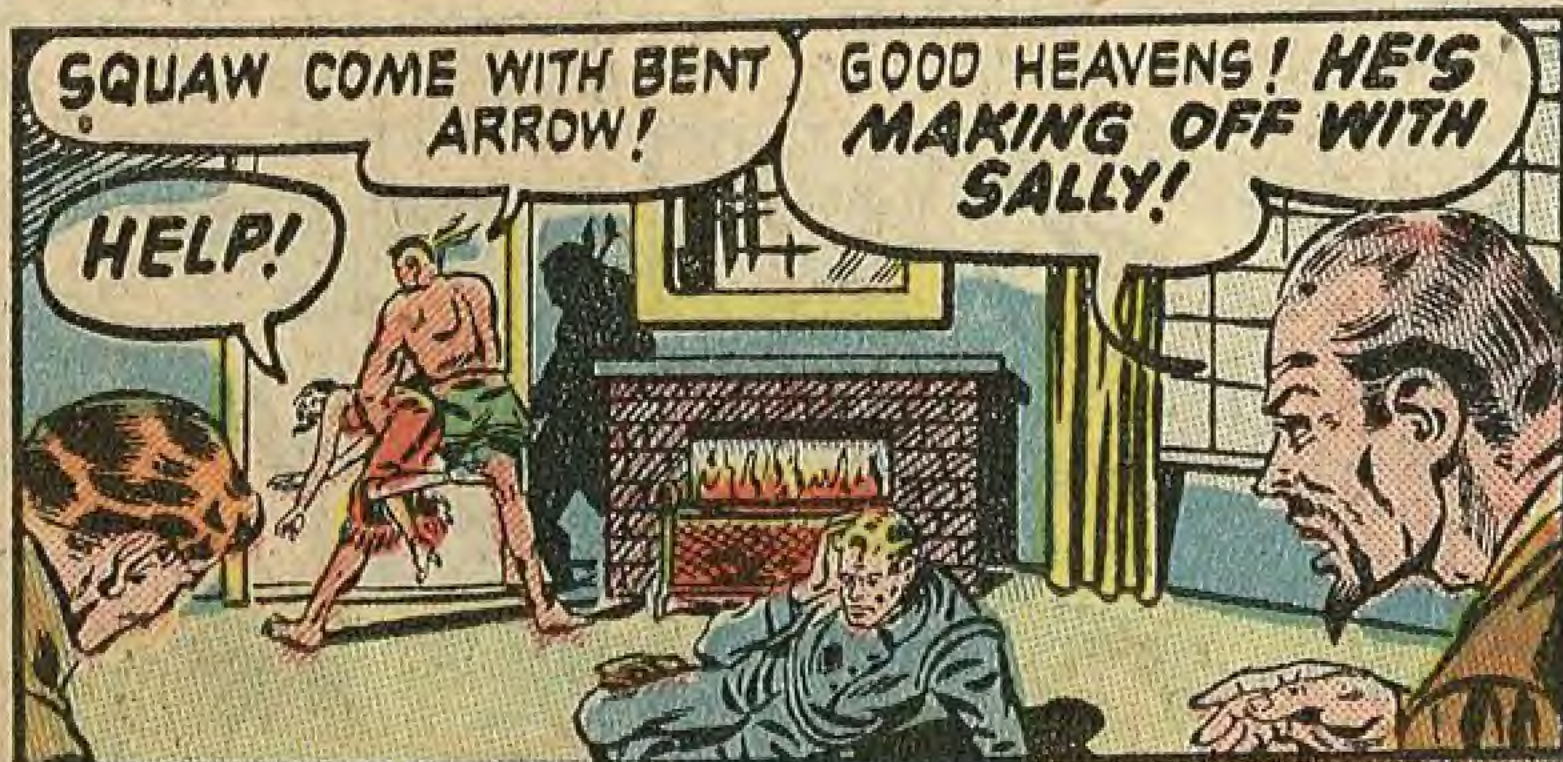


FLINGING PETE VIOLENTLY ASIDE--



EEEIII!
HELP!

THEN, AS THE TERRIFIED GATHERING WATCHED HELPLESSLY...



SQUAW COME WITH BENT ARROW!

GOOD HEAVENS! HE'S
MAKING OFF WITH
SALLY!

HELP!

I'LL CALL
THE
POLICE!
THAT
FIEND
HAS GOT
TO BE
STOPPED!

WAIT! THE
POLICE CAN'T
HELP YOU,
AND THEY
MIGHT MAKE
THINGS WORSE!
YOU SEE,
WE'RE
DEALING
WITH A FORCE
BEYOND THE
REACH OF MAN-
MADE WEAPONS!

I TRIED TO WARN YOU, PETE!
SEE, THE HEAD OF BENT
ARROW IS GONE... IT MUST
HAVE FALLEN INTO THE FIRE,
AND **HIS SPIRIT HAS
EMERGED FROM THE
FLAMES**, JUST AS THE
LEGEND DECREED!



BUT THAT'S--
FANTASTIC!
DO YOU MEAN
THAT **MONSTER**
IS ACTUALLY
BENT ARROW?
AND THAT HE
THINKS SALLY
IS REALLY
HIS INDIAN
PRINCESS,
PALE
SHADOW?

I'VE GOT AN
IDEA! IF **THIS**
MUCH OF THE
LEGEND HAS
COME TRUE,
PERHAPS...
COME ON, WE
HAVEN'T A
MINUTE TO LOSE!
WHEN HE FINDS
OUT SALLY ISN'T
PALE SHADOW,
SHE'LL BE IN
TERRIBLE
DANGER!

THERE THEY
GO-- INTO
THE PARK!
COME ON,
AFTER
THEM!

WAIT, PETE...
WE'RE **HELPLESS**
AGAINST HIM! THE
ONE THING THAT
CAN HELP US IS
TWO BLOCKS
AWAY-- **IN THE
MUSEUM!**

I CAN'T JUST
LET HIM CARRY
SALLY OFF...
**I'M GOING
AFTER
THEM!**

IT'S FOOL-
HARDY, BUT
I CAN'T
BLAME YOU!
I'LL GET
THERE AS
FAST AS
I CAN!





THEY'VE VANISHED!
WHERE ON EARTH--
WAIT! A FIRE!



YOU **NOT**
PALE
SHADOW!
YOU **WHITE--**
MUST DIE!



YOU BE
SACRIFICE
TO ANGRY
GODS--
NOW!

THAT'S WHAT YOU
THINK, CREEP!

PETE!

CRACK



BENT ARROW
KILL!

WHAM!



EVEN MY **JUDO**
WON'T WORK AGAINST
HIM! I GUESS WE'RE
FINISHED!



WHY, IT'S THE HEAD OF
ANOTHER INDIAN...
WHAT HELP
CAN **THAT**
BE?

THANK HEAVENS THERE'S
A FIRE! LET'S HOPE
THIS WORKS!

SUDDENLY, THE FLAMES LICKED UP WITH EERIE BRILLIANCE, AND THEN, FROM THE CURLING PLUME OF SMOKE--



THEN, WITH STARTLING SWIFTNESS, THE COURSE OF BATTLE TURNED! AND, AS IRON-LIKE FINGERS CLOSED AROUND BENT ARROW'S THROAT--





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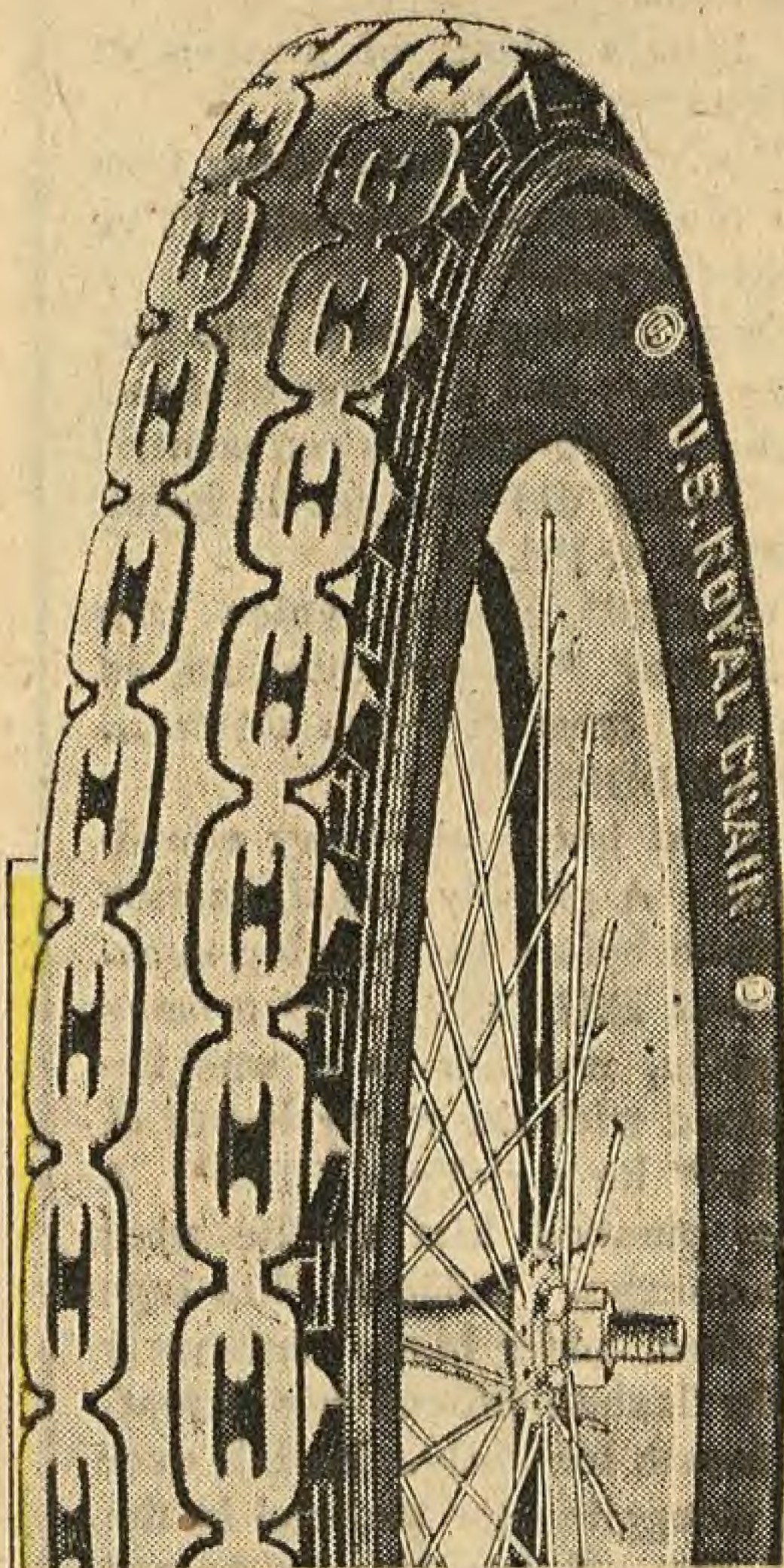


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FANGED FURY

FOR THIRTY YEARS Fritz had been caretaker of the Snake House at the City Zoological Park. He had taken the job through choice and kept it through desire, for all his life he had felt an overpowering hatred for serpents. While carrying out his regular duties he kept his hatred well under control, for the trustees would never have tolerated his sadistic cruelty, but after hours, when the visitors were gone and the park was closed, Fritz gave complete vent to his maniacal impulses. It gave him infinite pleasure to thrust hot pokers through the thin air slots and make the serpents writhe in agony. Sometimes he sprayed pepper into their eyes. Often he doused their cages with boiling water. He was a tight-lipped, wary old man, and for thirty years no one learned of his cruelty.

Then along came Rima, a dark-haired, almost mystically beautiful girl. Fritz had watched her stare at the snakes for hours every day, as if hypnotically fascinated. Finally, after months of constant attendance, Fritz had spoken to her. "You...like snakes?" he asked, in his high, cracked voice. Rima had leveled her infinitely deep dark eyes and smiled. "Few people like snakes," she'd replied. "You don't...you LOATHE them."

Her manner had been strangely disarming, and Fritz found himself admitting things he'd never told anyone before. "Yes, I do hate them, and I'd gladly torture to death every snake in the universe." He had laughed, his lips twisted into a cruel leer. Rima had merely smiled, her expression enigmatic.

One day Rima stopped coming to the zoo. Fritz wondered about it for a while, missed her, and then forgot her completely. But for some obscure reason, she had leapt into his thoughts, when a magnificent cobra was acquired by the zoo, donated under rather mysterious circumstances. After the cobra was placed in its cage, Fritz took a moment off to look at it curl into a lazy mass. Immediately he

began thinking ahead...to nightfall, when he could get at it.

The zoo was closed and everything silent when Fritz finished cleaning up. He snapped off the lights in the Snake House and went to the cobra's cage, carrying an oil lantern to illuminate the scene. His eyes sparkled with evil anticipation as he peered into the cage, and then...he turned pale with horror!

Somehow, the cobra had escaped! Instantly, realizing that he was in great danger, Fritz streaked for the caretaker's room to get his gun and call the police. "But...it's not possible!" he thought. "That cage was closed! It's closed NOW! How did it get out?"

"RIMA!" Fritz's shout of amazement split the profound stillness.

"At last," whispered Rima, rising from the chair in the caretaker's room. "I've been WAITING for you."

Fritz looked half-hypnotized into the girl's glowing eyes, and a shiver of dread passed over him. "Wh-What do you want?" he gasped. "How did you get in here? Quick, answer me or I'll..."

"You'll WHAT?" Rima's voice was almost like a hiss. "Do you think ME as helpless as the creatures you torture... me, a SNAKE GODDESS?"

Fritz staggered back, his heart pounding with terror. A ghastly transformation was taking place before his bulging eyes. Rima's form was MELTING...into a mass of writhing coils, and her head was becoming encrusted with the scaly horror of serpents. "No!" he shrieked. "NO!" A spitting hiss pursued him as he tried frantically to escape. Suddenly, his legs were cut out from under him. Immensely powerful coils lashed around his throat, stopping his breath instantly. He fell over on his back, struggling for air, and in the half-light of the oil lantern, he peered into the unspeakably evil eyes of a cobra. But they were also the eyes of RIMA, glinting terror, as her coils tightened around his throat relentlessly.

The EYES of DOOM





IN THE NEXT SECOND--

CRASH!

AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AS A WITNESS, MISS!

PETE'S DEAD... LOOK-- WHAT'S THIS BUSINESS ABOUT EVIL-- JUST BEFORE IT HAPPENED?

THERE WAS A HIDEOUS, SPECTRAL FIGURE ON THE SCAFFOLD-- YOU COULDN'T HAVE MISSED IT!

I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING HIDEOUS UP THERE!

YOU MUST HAVE -- A THING WITH STARING EYES AND THE FACE OF A FIEND -- OH, LORD-- HOW CAN I POSSIBLY DESCRIBE IT?

THAT NIGHT--

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I THOUGHT ASPIRIN WOULD HELP MY OCCASIONAL HEADACHES-- BUT MAYBE THEY'RE A SYMPTOM-- AN INDICATION THAT I'M LOSING MY MIND! BECAUSE I-- I'M CONVINCED I'M GOING TO SEE THAT HORRIBLE THING AGAIN!



YES, ELAINE'S FEARS WERE ALL TOO TRUE! NEXT DAY-- IN A SKYSCRAPER OFFICE--

OHH! THAT THING-- IT'S THERE AGAIN! QUICK, FOR GOODNESS SAKE-- GET INSIDE!

WHAT GOES ON HERE? YOU NUTS, OR SOMETHING?

FOR THE LOVE OF PETE-- WHAT IN THUNDER'S GOT INTO YOU, ELAINE?

WAIT... WAIT A SECOND, MR. DOLAN!



TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SAFETY BELT! THE BUCKLE WOULDN'T HAVE HELD FOR MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS -- AND THEN I'D HAVE HAD A TWELVE-STORY PLUNGE!



IT-- IT WAS THE SAME EVIL PHANTOM I SAW YESTERDAY-- AND THANK HEAVENS THIS TIME I SAW IT SOON ENOUGH!



ER-- YOU'VE BEEN WORKING PRETTY HARD! MAYBE YOU'D BETTER GO HOME AND TAKE THINGS EASY FOR A FEW DAYS!

I CAN'T BLAME PEOPLE FOR SCOFFING AT SOMETHING ONLY I CAN SEE! BUT NOW THAT I'VE PROVED I CAN CHEAT THAT FIEND OF ITS VICTIMS, IT'S EASY TO SEE WHAT'LL HAPPEN NEXT-- IT'S GOING TO COME AFTER ME!



THAT EVENING--

I'M TRYING TO DIVERT MY THOUGHTS, BUT READING DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD-- I CAN'T FIGHT OFF THE DREAD THAT'S STEALING CLOSER EVERY MINUTE!



THEN-- AS IF ELAINE'S FEARS LOOMED INTO HORRIBLE REALITY--



THEN-- AS THE FEARSOME FIGURE UNEXPECTEDLY TURNS--

I'LL DIE -- I'LL DIE THE INSTANT IT TOUCHES ME!

HOLY SMOKE-- WHAT GOES ON HERE?

LOOK-- LOOK! GOOD HEAVENS-- IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!

EASY, BABY-- COME OFF IT! THE "DAILY EXPRESS" SENT ME TO GET A STORY ABOUT THAT THING YOU SAW AT THE SCAFFOLD ACCIDENT -- BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT THIS REALISTIC!





SECONDS LATER--





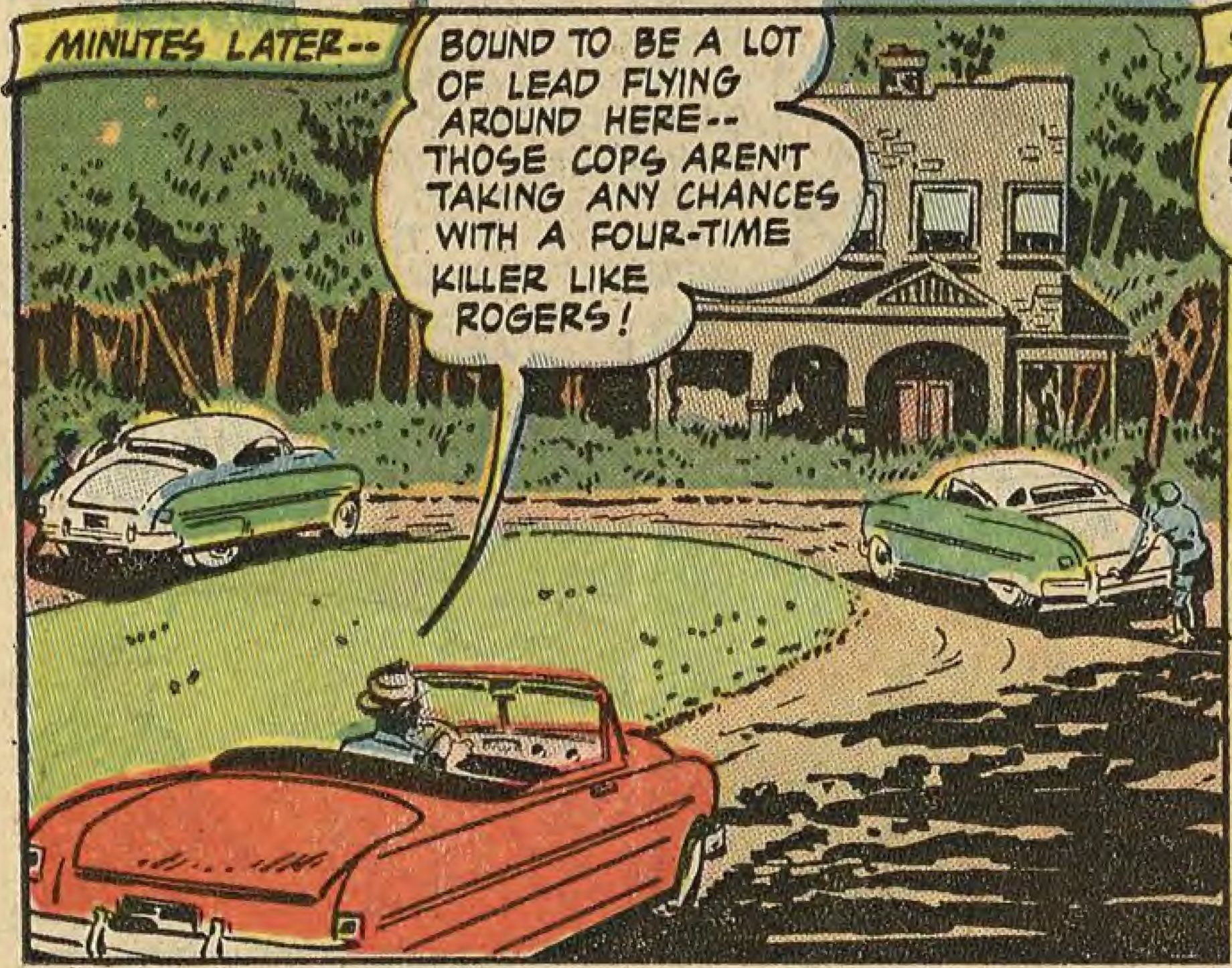
GOOD THING I WAS ABLE TO REACH YOU, DON! THE POLICE HAVE JUST CORNERED CHESTY ROGERS-- THE MAD DOG BANDIT! HE'S TRAPPED IN A HOUSE AT RIVER ROAD JUNCTION-- DROP THAT ELAINE JOHNSON ANGLE AND GET OUT THERE FAST!

CHECK-- I'M ON MY WAY!



WISH I COULD STICK AROUND HONEY-- BUT THIS STORY'S RED-HOT! KEEP YOUR CHIN UP-- I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT COMING BACK LATER!

PROMISE YOU WON'T FORGET! I'VE GOT TO COUNT ON SOMEONE -- I CAN'T FACE THAT TERROR ALONE!



MINUTES LATER--

BOUND TO BE A LOT OF LEAD FLYING AROUND HERE-- THOSE COPS AREN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES WITH A FOUR-TIME KILLER LIKE ROGERS!



SUDDENLY--

HOLY MACKEREL-- WHAT'S THAT THING UP ON THE ROOF?

WHERE? I DON'T SEE A THING!



THEN--

NEVER MIND THE ROOF--I GOT HIM!

UP ON THE ROOF, HE SAYS! GOOD THING WE DIDN'T GET SPOOKED UP BY THAT GUY'S IMAGINATION-- WITH CHESTY ROGERS READY TO FIRE FROM THE WINDOW!

VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED-- THAT COULDN'T BE ANYTHING BUT THE PHANTOM THAT'S PLAGUING ELAINE! BUT IF I WASN'T ABLE TO SEE IT AT HER HOME-- HOW COME IT WAS VISIBLE THIS TIME?



GREAT GUNS! IT'S A FANTASTIC POSSIBILITY-- BUT WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?

SOON AFTERWARDS-- AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS--

OKAY, POWELL-- YOU WANT OUR LAB TO ANALYZE THESE ASPIRIN BECAUSE YOU THINK THEY'LL EXPLAIN THAT JOHNSON GIRL'S SPOOK! ANY OTHER BRIGHT LITTLE IDEAS WE CAN HELP YOU WITH?

YEP! I WANT YOU TO SEND OUT AN EMERGENCY TRUCK-- TO PICK UP A HEAVY BRONZE COFFIN FOR CHESTY ROGERS!

BRONZE COFFIN... BOY, YOU'RE GONE-- YOU'RE JUST ABOUT READY FOR THE SQUIRREL HATCH!

COULD BE-- BUT LISTEN! IF ELAINE WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE GHOST-- SUPPOSE SHE'S RIGHT ABOUT ITS COMING BACK TONIGHT TO KILL HER?



LOOK, INSPECTOR-- THAT THING ISN'T MERELY A BROODING SPIRIT THAT GLOATS OVER SCENES OF VIOLENCE! IT'S A LIVING EVIL WITHOUT FORM! AND SUPPOSE IT WAS TO FIND ITS EXACT OPPOSITE-- AN EVIL FORM WITHOUT LIFE-- WOULDN'T IT TRY TO TAKE OVER? AS LONG AS IT'S A GHOST, IT KNOWS IT CAN BE DETECTED-- BUT A BODY WOULD PROVIDE A CAMOUFLAGE-- IT WOULD BE A LIVING DISGUISE!

OKAY, DON-- HERE'S THAT LAB REPORT!

NICE GOING, STEVE-- LET'S HAVE A LOOK!

HERE'S THE LOWDOWN FROM YOUR OWN EXPERTS, INSPECTOR! "COAL TAR BASE IN ASPIRIN CHANGED TO DYCYNANIN BY ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE TO MASSIVE RADIATION... DYCYNANIN IS A LITTLE-KNOWN COMPOUND THAT SENSITIZES THE HUMAN EYE TO VIBRATIONS BEYOND THE VISIBLE SPECTRUM!"

HANLEY? I WANT AN EMERGENCY TRUCK OUT FRONT-- ON THE DOUBLE!



LATER-- WHAT'S NEXT, CHUM? ACCORDING TO THE INSPECTOR-- YOU'RE GIVING THE ORDERS!

JUST WHEEL THAT THING INSIDE-- I'LL DO THE REST!

THANK GOODNESS NOTHING HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE AWAY-- BUT I'M SURE IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF TIME!

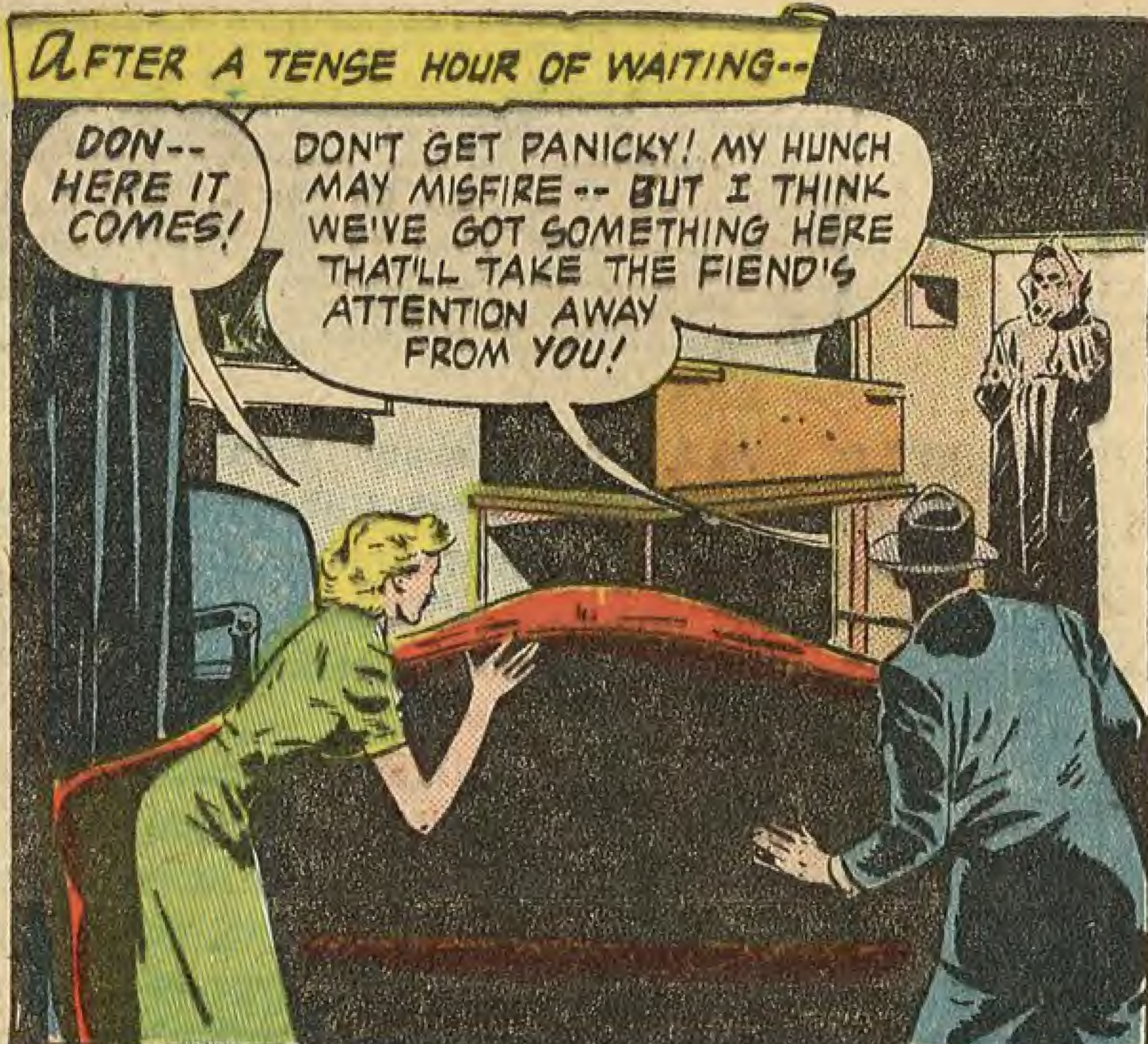
SO AM I, HONEY-- AFTER CATCHING A GLIMPSE OF THAT CREEP MYSELF! I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THAT LATER-- RIGHT NOW, THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET READY-- AND I WANT YOU TO BRACE YOURSELF!





GOOD HEAVENS-- THAT'S A COFFIN!

YEP.. AND IT CONTAINS THE BODY OF CHESTY ROGERS! -- OKAY, PALS -- DRIVE AROUND THE CORNER AND KEEP OUT OF SIGHT!



DON-- HERE IT COMES!

DON'T GET PANICKY! MY HUNCH MAY MISFIRE -- BUT I THINK WE'VE GOT SOMETHING HERE THAT'LL TAKE THE FIEND'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM YOU!



SEE WHAT I MEAN? IT'S ATTRACTED TO SOMETHING IT CAN USE -- AN EVIL CORPSE!

LOOK-- IT'S DISAPPEARING!



MERGING IS THE WORD, HONEY-- IT'S ENTERING THE BODY OF CHESTY ROGERS! BETTER TURN YOUR FACE AWAY-- THIS WON'T BE A NICE THING TO WATCH!



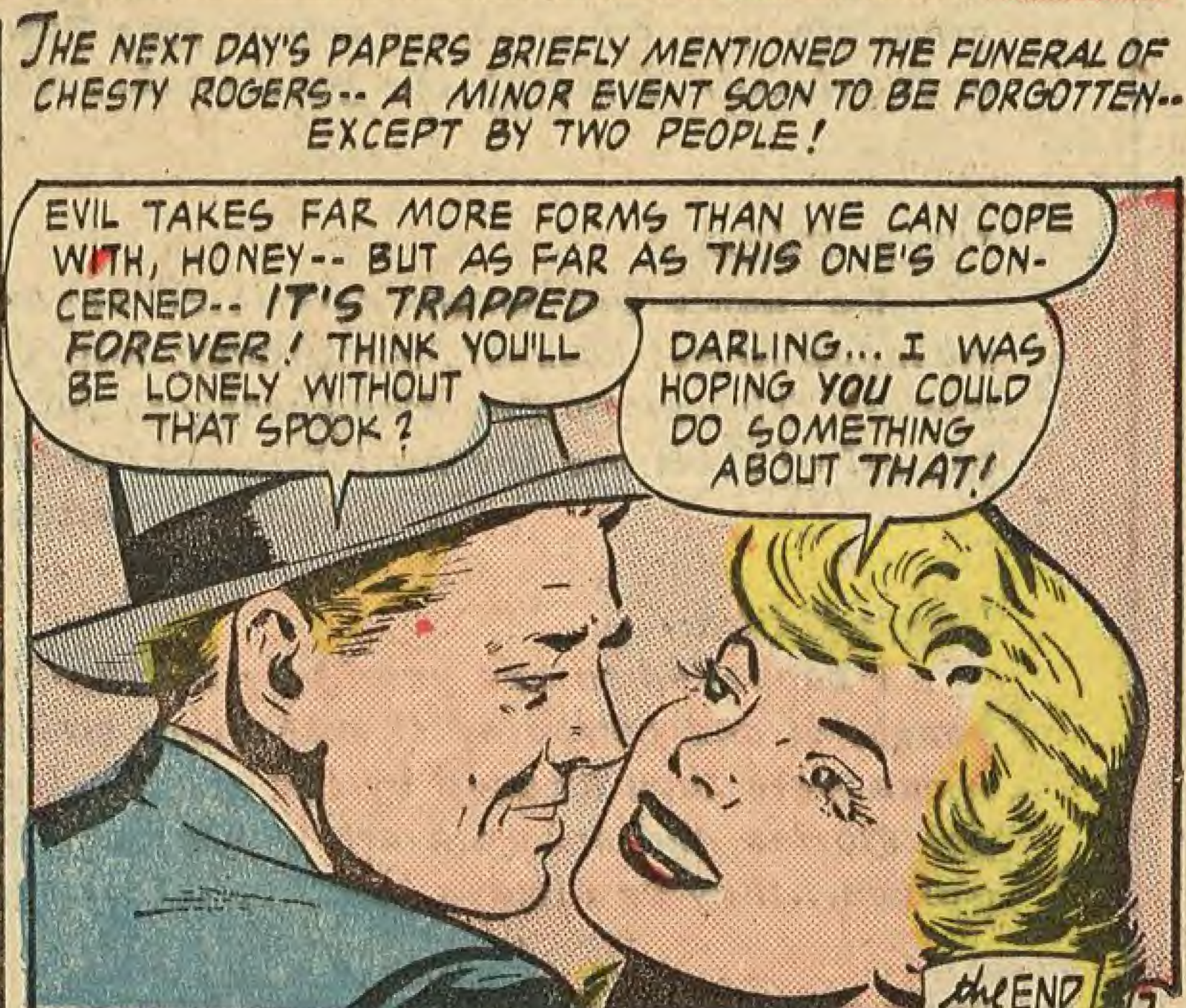
AS THE COFFIN STIRS WITH SLOW MOVEMENT--

DEATH HAS ALTERED THE FEATURES! WHO WILL RECOGNIZE THEM-- WHO WILL GUESS WHAT UNSEEN EVIL THEY HIDE?

MIX TOGETHER A GHOST AND A DEAD CRIMINAL-- AND YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THAT'S READY TO BE BURIED!



SLAM!



THE NEXT DAY'S PAPERS BRIEFLY MENTIONED THE FUNERAL OF CHESTY ROGERS-- A MINOR EVENT SOON TO BE FORGOTTEN-- EXCEPT BY TWO PEOPLE!

EVIL TAKES FAR MORE FORMS THAN WE CAN COPE WITH, HONEY-- BUT AS FAR AS THIS ONE'S CONCERNED-- IT'S TRAPPED FOREVER! THINK YOU'LL BE LONELY WITHOUT THAT SPOOK?

DARLING... I WAS HOPING YOU COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!

the END



HELLO, ALL YOU many fans of *'Adventures Into The Unknown'*! It's that time of the month again...time for the regular meeting of readers and editor...so pull up your chairs, relax comfortably...and let's talk it over!

Something important we'd like to discuss with you at this meeting. It's a question that's been preying on our minds for a long time, and we've decided, at long last, to put it to the test. Here it is: what type of supernatural thrills is your favorite?

Perhaps many of you will be puzzled by a question of this sort. You may not have realized that there's more than one type of excitement to be gained through reading weird stories. Actually, there are two brands of reaction that you may get. One is the instantaneous and electrifying kind such as you'd receive if, throwing open a closet door, you were to be confronted suddenly with a ghastly phantom. The other is a more subtle variety, wherein a cunning buildup of terror is resorted to...in which a frightening atmosphere is skilfully constructed and mounting tension produces a more subtle type of thrill. Which do you

prefer?

We want very much to know your reaction, for upon it depends the type of stories which we shall bring you. Meanwhile, we've attempted to steer a middle ground, in which both types of thrills are entrancingly mingled. The sudden gasp and the mounting shudder...you'll find them both in the tensely-paced plots of this gripping issue. *"Masquerade of Death"* is an excellent example of what we mean, packing an admixture of sudden-death chills and building tension. *"The Eyes of Doom"* is another of this gripping variety, and you'll go all out for it. *"Daughter of the Pharaohs"* delves into the age-old *Unknown* for its spine-tingling action...and *"The Vampire's Bones"* is a thrill-a-second yarn which rounds out a bang-up issue!

Now...won't you write us, telling us what you think of what we're doing? Address your letter to The Editor, *'Adventures Into The Unknown'*, 45 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y. Meanwhile, take a look at what some of our other readers think!

"Dear Editor:-

I've been reading 'Adventures Into The Unknown' ever since it first appeared, and want to say that it's my favorite weird comic. I particularly went for 'When Werewolves Howl', in your July issue, and want to congratulate you on such an interesting story. It's one of the best you've ever printed. Keep up the good work...even my mother reads your comics!

--Carol Stirling, Mineola, N. Y."

"Dear Editor:-

We don't get many American magazines here in London, but I've managed to get hold of 'Adventures Into The Unknown' and think it's wonderful! The story I've liked most so far was 'The Shadow of the Wolf'... but all of them are the best I've ever read!

--Ronald Collins, London, England."

"Dear Editor:-

I happened to see your July issue of 'Adventures Into The Unknown', bought it and compared it with other weird magazines on the newsstands. I was more than amazed by the ~~superiority~~ ^{superiority} of your book. It's terrific, and the stories and art work are wonderful. Keep up the eerie tales of werewolves...they've always been my favorites!

--E. Darrab, Wellsburg, W. Va."



9th NEW

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...IT'S Different!

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in **SECRETS OF THE SUPERNATURAL**

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DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAOHS



A WOMAN OF ANCIENT AND MYSTIC BLOOD OPENS THE PAGES OF A DUSTY, FORBIDDEN VOLUME, AND OUT OF THE MISTS OF TIME STEPS AKHZAR, GREAT EVIL GOD OF ANCIENT EGYPT-- CALLED FORTH TO RECONQUER THE WORLD BY A DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAONS!

IN A DUSTY ATTIC, A MAN SITS WRITING! FROM OUTSIDE COMES A LOUD KNOCKING, EXCITED VOICES ---

I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME TO LIVE, BUT BEFORE I GO-- THE **WORLD** MUST KNOW MY STORY! IT BEGAN THE DAY I MET **LORNA FARO...**

OPEN THIS DOOR!
OPEN IN THE
NAME OF THE
LAW!

BAM!
BAM!



OPEN THE DOOR
OR WE'LL **BREAK**
IT DOWN!

I should have known
Lorna was unnatural--
She was **too** beautiful!
But I was **blinded** by
her loveliness!



"**W**E WERE MARRIED! MY FIRST HINT OF THE STRANGE EVENTS THAT WERE TO FOLLOW CAME THE DAY WE MOVED INTO THIS HOUSE ---"



THIS IS IT, DARLING -- YOUR NEW HOME! BUT WHAT'S-- **THAT?** IT... IT LOOKS LIKE **A MUMMY CASE!**

IT **IS**, SWEETHEART.. DIDN'T I TELL YOU? I'M AN EGYPTOLOGIST, STUDYING ABOUT ANCIENT EGYPT IS MY **HOBBY!**



BY THE WAY, PAUL, IS THERE A PLACE I COULD FIX UP AS A SORT OF STUDY, TO KEEP MY BOOKS AND ---?

WELL, THERE'S THE ATTIC! HOW ABOUT THAT?



"AFTER WE'D ARRANGED THE DUSTY ATTIC AS A DEN FOR LORNA ---"

WHY DON'T YOU **JOIN** ME, DARLING? LET ME TEACH YOU WHAT I KNOW OF THE MYSTERIES OF EGYPT! THERE'S -- **MORE** TO IT THAN YOU THINK!

NO THANKS.. NOT FOR ME! BUT **YOU** GO RIGHT AHEAD, DARLING!



"BUT LORNA SPENT HOURS THERE -- NIGHT AND DAY! FINALLY, MY CURIOSITY GOT THE BETTER OF ME! ONE NIGHT, AS I CLIMBED THE STAIRS---

WHY, THAT'S LORNA! SHE MUST BE SPEAKING **EGYPTIAN!** AND THAT STRANGE SCENT---



"AS I BURST INTO THE ROOM, I SAW A GHASTLY SHAPE HOVER NEAR THE CEILING! THEN--"

LORNA, WHAT THE --?

AZGAFAGE



WHATEVER'S GOING ON -- I DON'T LIKE IT!

PAUL! HOW **DARE** YOU TEAR THAT PAPYRUS? IT'S **PRICELESS!**

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT! I **SAW** SOMETHING IN THIS ROOM, LORNA-- AND **HEARD** IT AS I TORE THE PAPER! IT WAS-- **EVIL!** AND THAT STRANGE **SCENT**, LIKE THE SMELL OF AN ANCIENT TOMB--!

WHAT IF THERE WAS? MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, OR ELSE --

"FOR A MOMENT, HER ANGER WAS SAVAGE, FLASHING! THEN, SUDDENLY, SHE WAS HER CHARMING SELF AGAIN--"

I...I'M SORRY, PAUL, BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M ON THE VERGE OF LEARNING SOMETHING **TREMENDOUS**, GAINING UNTOLD POWERS! WHY DON'T YOU **HELP** ME? TOGETHER WE COULD--

NO, LORNA! THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY **WRONG**, SOMETHING **DANGEROUS** ABOUT ALL THIS! I INSIST THAT YOU GIVE IT UP!

ALL RIGHT, DEAR-- IF YOU SAY SO! LET'S **FORGET** ABOUT THIS AND FIX OURSELF A MIDNIGHT SNACK! SHALL WE?

NOW YOU'RE TALKING!

"LORNA KEPT HER PROMISE -- BUT NOT FOR LONG! ONLY A WEEK LATER --"

THERE IT IS **AGAIN**-- THAT STRANGE SOUND! I'M PUTTING A STOP TO THIS FOR **GOOD!**

LORNA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU PROMISED --- **YE GODS!** I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A **REAL MUMMY** IN THAT CASE! I THOUGHT --

AZOTER

AAGT?

OH, NO! **NO!** IT--IT'S **MOVING!**

AZOTER

GIVE ME THAT! I'M NOT TOLERATING THIS ANOTHER INSTANT!

RRIPP!



THERE! I'VE
TORN THE PAPER
TO SHREDS! AND
NOW YOUR
MUMMY IS
GONE!
NOTHING BUT
-DUST!

I DON'T CARE!
I'VE LEARNED THE
FIRST TWO STEPS!
I'VE CALLED
FORTH THE SPIRITS
OF THE **DEAD--**
I'VE **DONE IT!**



NOW I'M READY TO CALL FORTH
AKHZAR, THE GREAT DRAGON-
HEADED GOD OF THE NILE! AND
WITH HIM TO DO MY BIDDING,
I SHALL
RULE THE
WORLD!

YOU'RE **CRAZY**,
LORNA! WHY, EVEN
IF IT WERE
POSSIBLE, YOU
WOULDN'T **DARE**
DO SUCH A
THING!

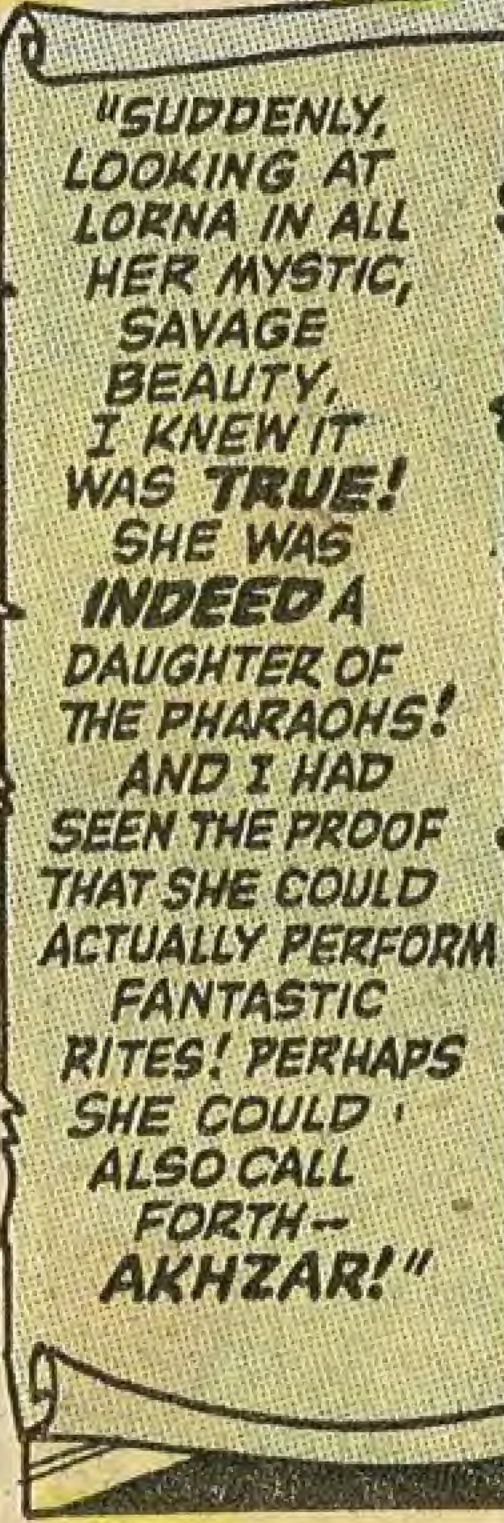


WHY **NOT?** HE RULED THE WORLD
ONCE! **AKHZAR** AND HIS FRIENDS
ARE ONLY **SLEEPING--** SLEEPING
THROUGH THE CENTURIES
UNTIL THEIR TIME
COMES **AGAIN!**

LORNA, EVEN
I KNOW THAT
AKHZAR WAS THE
MOST EVIL OF ALL
THE EGYPTIAN GODS!
IF HE LIVES AGAIN,
THE WORLD
WOULD BE
ENSLAVED!



OF COURSE IT WOULD--AND **I** ITS **QUEEN!**
YOU FOOL, WHY DO YOU THINK **I** CAN UNLOCK
THE MYSTERIES IN THOSE BOOKS? BECAUSE
I AM A QUEEN! THE BLOOD OF THE
MIGHTY PHARADHS OF EGYPT FLOWS
IN MY VEINS!



"SUDDENLY,
LOOKING AT
LORNA IN ALL
HER MYSTIC,
SAVAGE
BEAUTY,
I KNEW IT
WAS **TRUE!**
SHE WAS
INDEED A
DAUGHTER OF
THE PHARAOHS!
AND I HAD
SEEN THE PROOF
THAT SHE COULD
ACTUALLY PERFORM
FANTASTIC
RITES! PERHAPS
SHE COULD
ALSO CALL
FORTH--
AKHZAR!"



LOOK, PAUL! ALL I HAVE TO
DO IS TO DRAW THIS ANCIENT
SYMBOL ON THE FLOOR!



NO, LORNA-- I FORBID IT! I'M
GOING TO LOCK THE DOOR TO
THIS PLACE, SO THAT YOU CAN
NEVER AGAIN ---

YOU FORBID IT?
YOU IDIOT! DO YOU
THINK A PITIFUL MORTAL
LIKE **YOU** CAN STAND IN
THE WAY OF **AKHZAR--** OR
A **DAUGHTER OF THE**
PHARADHS? HA-HA-
HA!



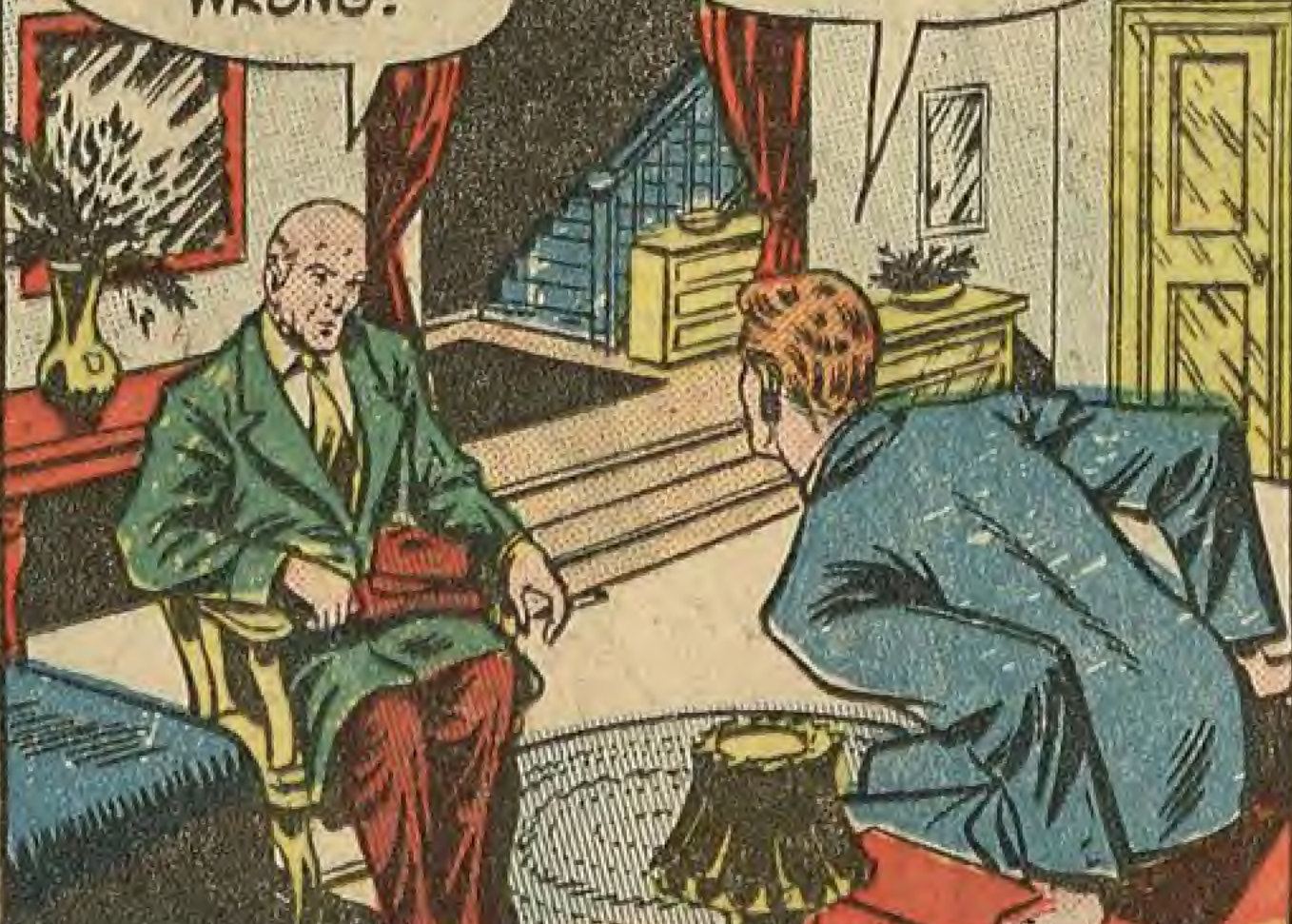
"I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE REPORTED WHAT I
HAD LEARNED TO THE POLICE! BUT I LOVED
LORNA -- **TOO MUCH!**"

HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

"I DECIDED TO SELL THE HOUSE! PERHAPS, IF WE MOVED TO THE CITY, LORNA COULD FIND **OTHER** INTERESTS! BUT ONE NIGHT, AS I TALKED TO A PROSPECTIVE BUYER ---"

NOW, ABOUT THE PRICE --- I SAY, IS SOMETHING WRONG?

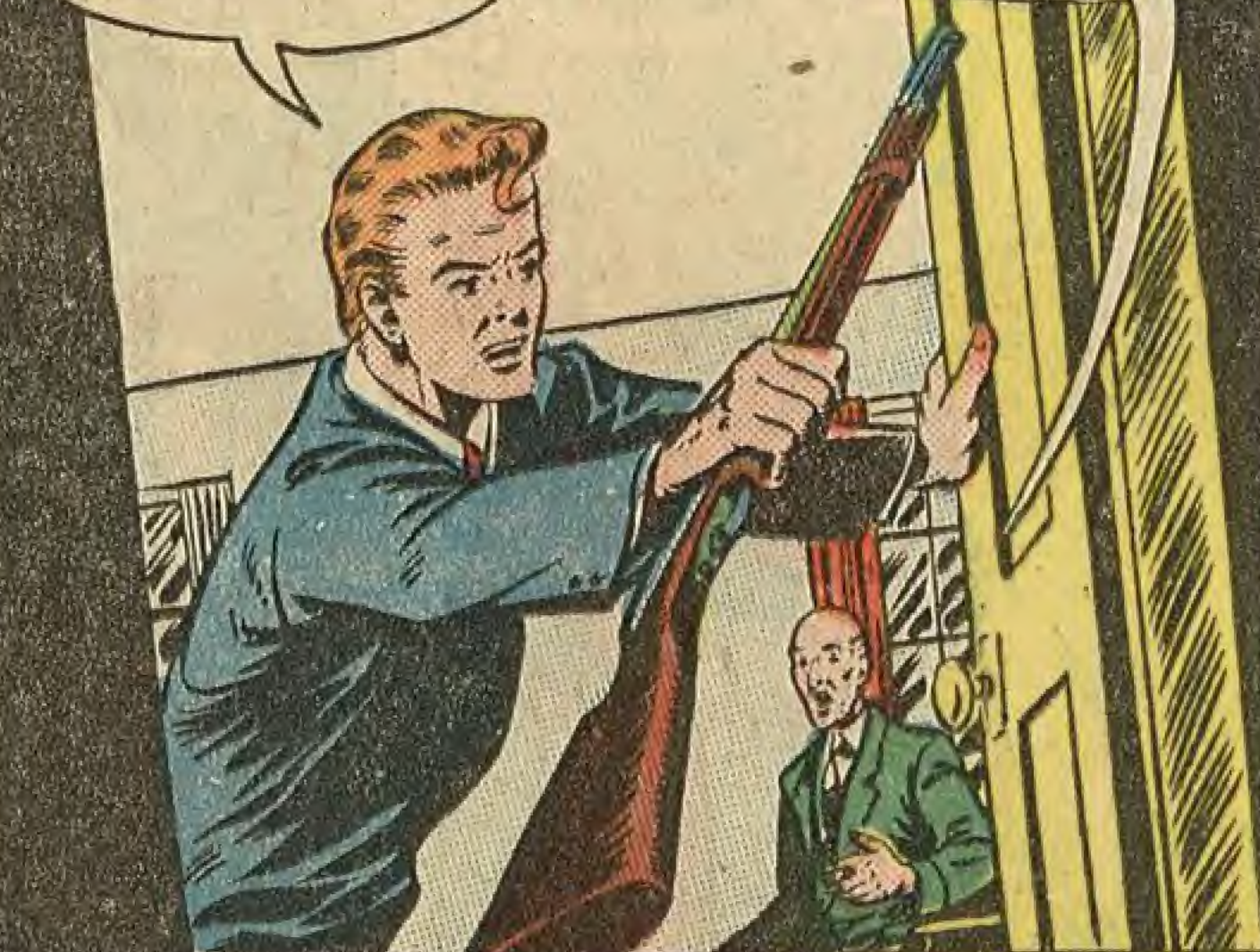
THAT --- **SOUND!** MY WIFE -- SHE'S AT IT AGAIN!



"I HAD BEEN KEEPING A RIFLE NEAR ME THE PAST FEW DAYS! FURIOUS, I SNATCHED IT UP! THEN--"

I TOLD HER NEVER TO DO IT AGAIN! I **WARNED** HER!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT'S --- OH! A **RIFLE!**



LORNA! STOP IT! STOP IT, OR I'LL ---

HE-- HE'S GONE **MAD!** HE'S GOING TO **KILL HIS WIFE!**



HELP! POLICE! HELP!



"RACING TO THE ATTIC, I THREW OPEN THE DOOR! THEN -- AN **INCREDIBLE SIGHT!**"

NO! I...I DON'T **BELIEVE** IT! IT CAN'T BE!

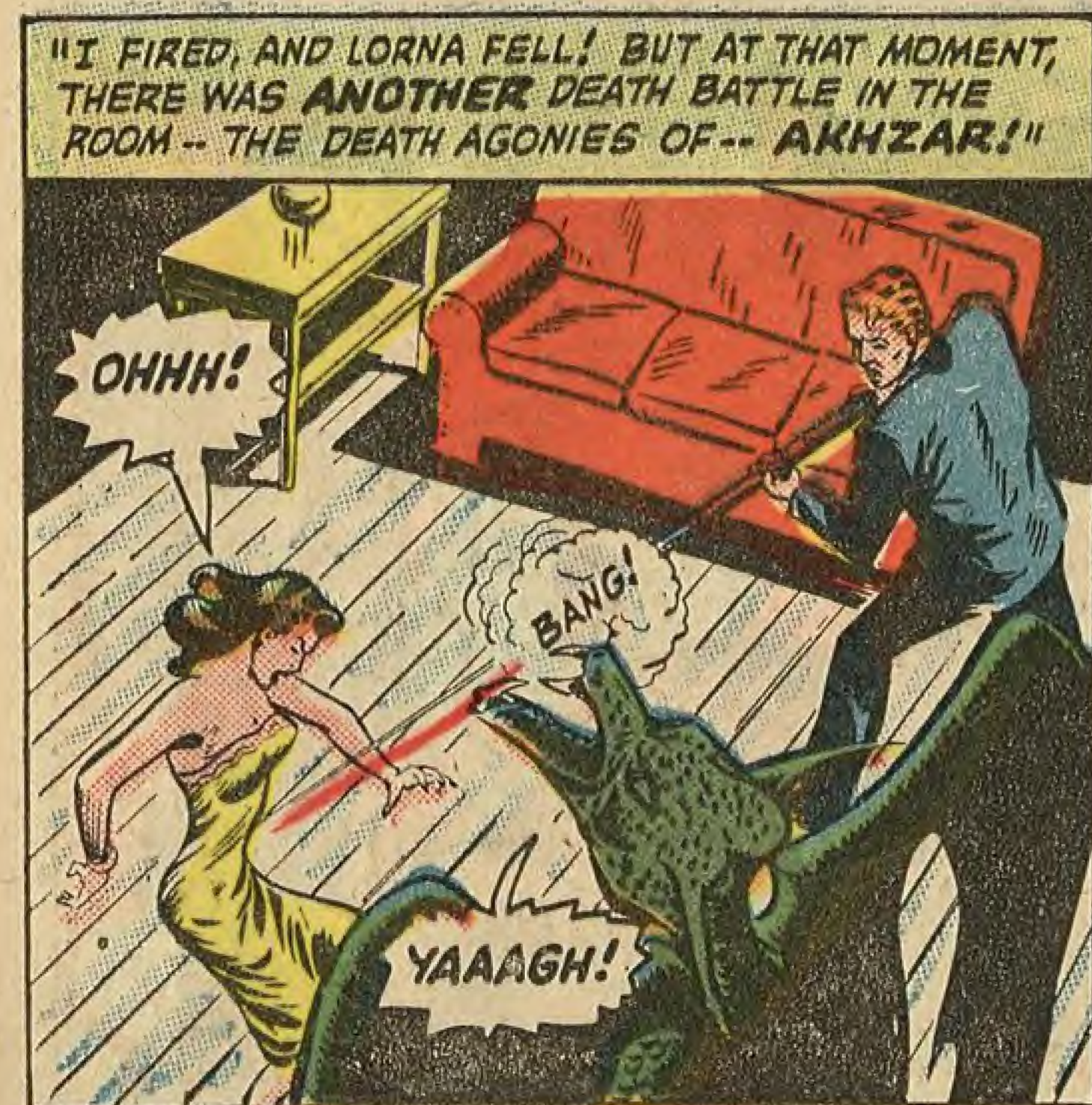
JUST IN TIME, PAUL! JUST IN TIME TO MEET-- **AKHZAR!**

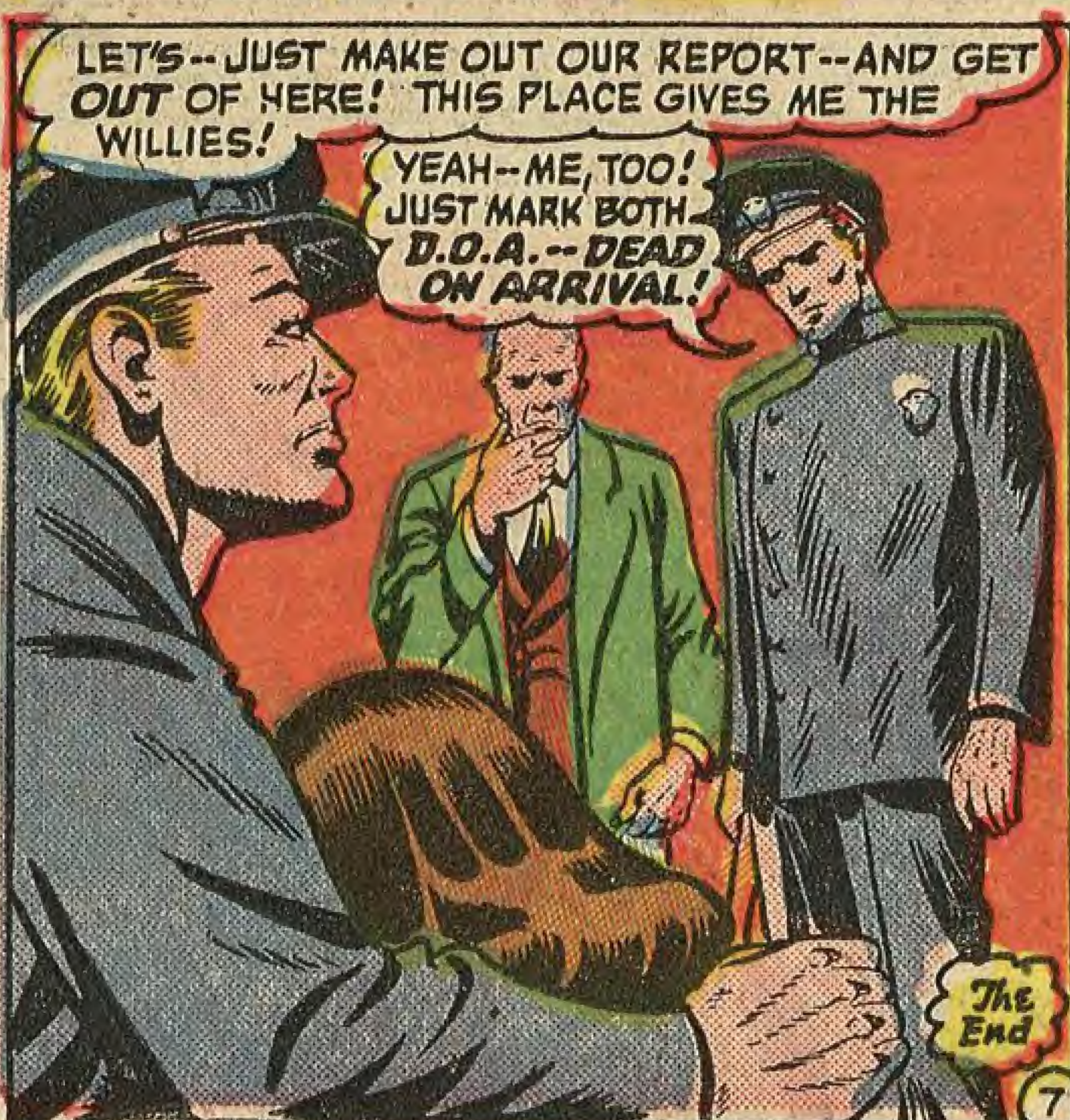


---AND HIS **FRIENDS!**

FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN, LORNA---







STRANGE ENOUGH TO FIND A BEAUTIFUL FIGURE LYING DEEP INSIDE A LONELY CAVE -- AND HORRIBLE ENOUGH TO HEAR A VOICE CROON IN DELIGHT OVER DRIPPING BLOOD! BUT THESE ARE PORTENTS OF THE TERROR TO COME -- WHEN JAGGED WINGS BEAT THE MURKY DEPTHS THAT HOLD --

The VAMPIRE'S BONES!



THIS CLIFF ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH TO BE EXCITING -- BUT ANYWAY, IT'S CLOSE TO TOWN -- AND KEEPS ME IN FORM FOR **REAL** MOUNTAIN CLIMBING!



GARY OWENS BARELY FEELS THE SHARP FLINT EDGE THAT GASHES HIS HAND -- BUT IN THE NEXT SECOND --

BLOOD--BLOOD! IT HAS FALLEN ON YOUR BONES, BELOVED-- NOW I CAN RISE AND FULFILL YOUR DESTINY!

MY GOSH! THAT CAN'T BE A VOICE-- NO ONE'S NEAR HERE!



WAIT A MINUTE... A FEW DROPS OF MY BLOOD MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO THIS CRACK IN THE ROCK -- AND THAT'S WHERE THE VOICE IS COMING FROM -- **SOMEWHERE BELOW!** THAT MEANS A CAVE -- AND I'VE GOT TO FIND IT'S ENTRANCE!



IT WAS A STRANGE, OMINOUS CAVERN THAT GARY FOUND--

HOLY MACKEREL-- THERE'S A STRANGE GLOW RISING FROM THAT CLEFT! AND IF THAT SLIT OF LIGHT UP THERE MEANS ANYTHING-- **IT'S DIRECTLY BELOW THE CRACK IN THE ROCK--THE ONE INTO WHICH THOSE DROPS OF BLOOD FELL!**



HOLY SMOKE-- I **DIDN'T** IMAGINE THAT VOICE TALKING ABOUT BLOOD FALLING ON BONES! THERE'S A SKELETON SPRAWLED FIVE FEET BELOW WITH A GLINTING OBJECT JUST UNDER THE RIBS!



FOR A CHILLING SECOND, GARY REACHES DOWN, HIS FINGERS GROPING-- AND THEN--

MY GOSH, IT'S SOME KIND OF GEM-- A GREEN STONE WITH SCARLET STREAKS!



THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT SKELETON-- BUT WHAT I'M INTERESTED IN **NOW** IS THE VOICE! HOW COULD IT SPEAK TO BONES THAT HAVE BEEN LYING HERE FOR CENTURIES-- AND COME FROM ANYTHING ALIVE? WAIT-- THAT SOUND OF **HEAVY BREATHING**-- SOMETHING'S UP ON THAT LEDGE!



GOOD LORD! SHE MAY BE BREATHING **NOW**-- BUT THAT ANCIENT WINDING SHEET IS WHAT PEOPLE USED TO BE **BURIED** IN!



SUDDENLY-- STARING FROM THE WAXEN FEATURES IN SILENT MOCKERY--

SHE'S OPENED HER EYES! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT GLANCE MEANS-- BUT IT HOLDS SOMETHING REPULSIVE AND EVIL!



AS THE PALE LIPS MOVE--

BLOOD HAS RELEASED ME-- BLOOD SHALL SUSTAIN ME-- FOREVER!

NOW

I KNOW WHAT SPOKE! I'VE HEARD AND SEEN ENOUGH-- I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!



BUT THEN -- A SUDDEN SLIP!



STUNNED, GARY LIES MOTIONLESS -- DIMLY HEARING AN EERIE RUSTLE ABOVE HIM -- BUT UNAWARE OF SOMETHING BLACK AND JAGGED UNFOLDING IN THE GLOOM!



WITH THE NUMBED AWARENESS OF A NIGHTMARE --

**SOMETHING'S PANTING TOWARD ME!
IT'S BENDING OVER MY FACE --
OVER MY THROAT!**



MINUTES LATER --

**I FEEL ROCKY -- AND IT CAN'T BE JUST
THE RESULT OF THAT FALL! MAYBE I
OUGHT TO GET
OUT OF HERE --
BUT I CAN'T
LEAVE UNTIL I'VE
LEARNED THE
TRUTH!**



**HER FACE WAS PALE JUST A
SHORT TIME WHILE AGO -- AND
NOW IT HAS THE FLUSH OF A
CREATURE THAT'S ALIVE -- A
CREATURE
WITH
BLOOD!**



**WITH A FURY ROOTED IN
STARK TERROR --**

**WHOSE BLOOD? WHAT
KIND OF DEMON
ARE YOU?**



**HA-HA-HA! WITH TWO SMALL
FANG MARKS ON YOUR THROAT,
HOW CAN
YOU HAVE
ANY
DOUBT?**

**WHAT--? THOSE
ARE WINGS -- THE
WINGS OF A
VAMPIRE!**



YES--I'M A FIEND WHOSE RETURN TO LIFE HAS BEEN GAINED THROUGH YOU! YOU COULD HAVE GUESSED THE TRUTH IN TIME TO SAVE YOURSELF--IF ONLY YOU HAD EXAMINED THOSE BONES MORE CLOSELY!

GREAT GUNS! THEY'VE GOT SKELETON WINGS!

HE WAS THE CREATURE I LOVED--A CREATURE LIKE ME! A CURSED DAY FELL WHEN HE WAS SLAIN--DOOMING ME TO REMAIN HERE IN A TRANCE--UNTIL HUMAN BLOOD WAS SHED UPON HIS BONES!

A CREATURE LIKE YOU, EH? BUT IF HE WAS FINISHED OFF, WHAT'S THIS BUNK ABOUT YOUR LIVING FOREVER--SUPPOSE YOU'RE KILLED THE SAME WAY?

NEVER! HE WAS TRICKED INTO SWALLOWING THE THING YOU FOUND--A CHARM THAT CAN SEAR A VAMPIRE'S BODY WITH DEADLY FIRE--A BLOOD-STONE! BUT I WILL NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE!

NO--THE BLOODSTONE WON'T SAVE YOU! NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN MASTERED BY MY FANGS, YOUR LIFE HAS ONLY ONE PURPOSE--TO SERVE AS MY PREY!

NO DICE! IT HAPPENED ONCE, BUT IF YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A STEADY VICTIM--YOU'D BETTER CRAWL IN WITH THOSE BONES AND GIVE UP!

THEN--BORNE ON THE BLACK PINIONS OF DOOM--

I HAVE WAITED A LONG WHILE--AND I HAVE CRAVED TOO KEENLY TO BE SPURNED!

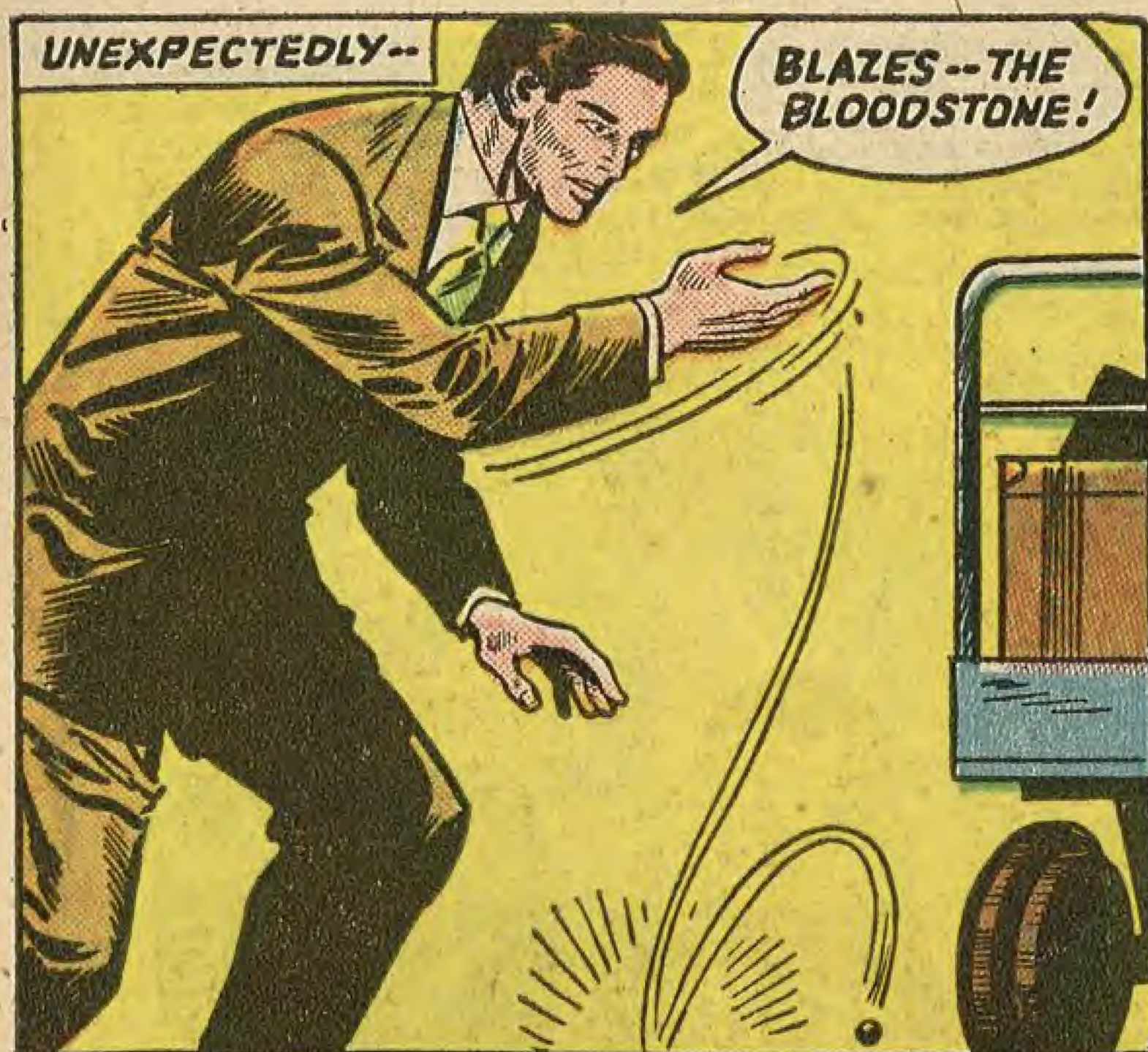
I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THAT FLUTTERING CREEP!

SHE'S NOT PURSUING! MAYBE EVERYTHING'S OKAY--NOW THAT I'M OUT OF THE CAVE!

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE SAFE? I HAVE A HOLD OVER YOU THAT NOTHING CAN BREAK--AND TOMORROW NIGHT--IT WILL BRING YOU BACK!

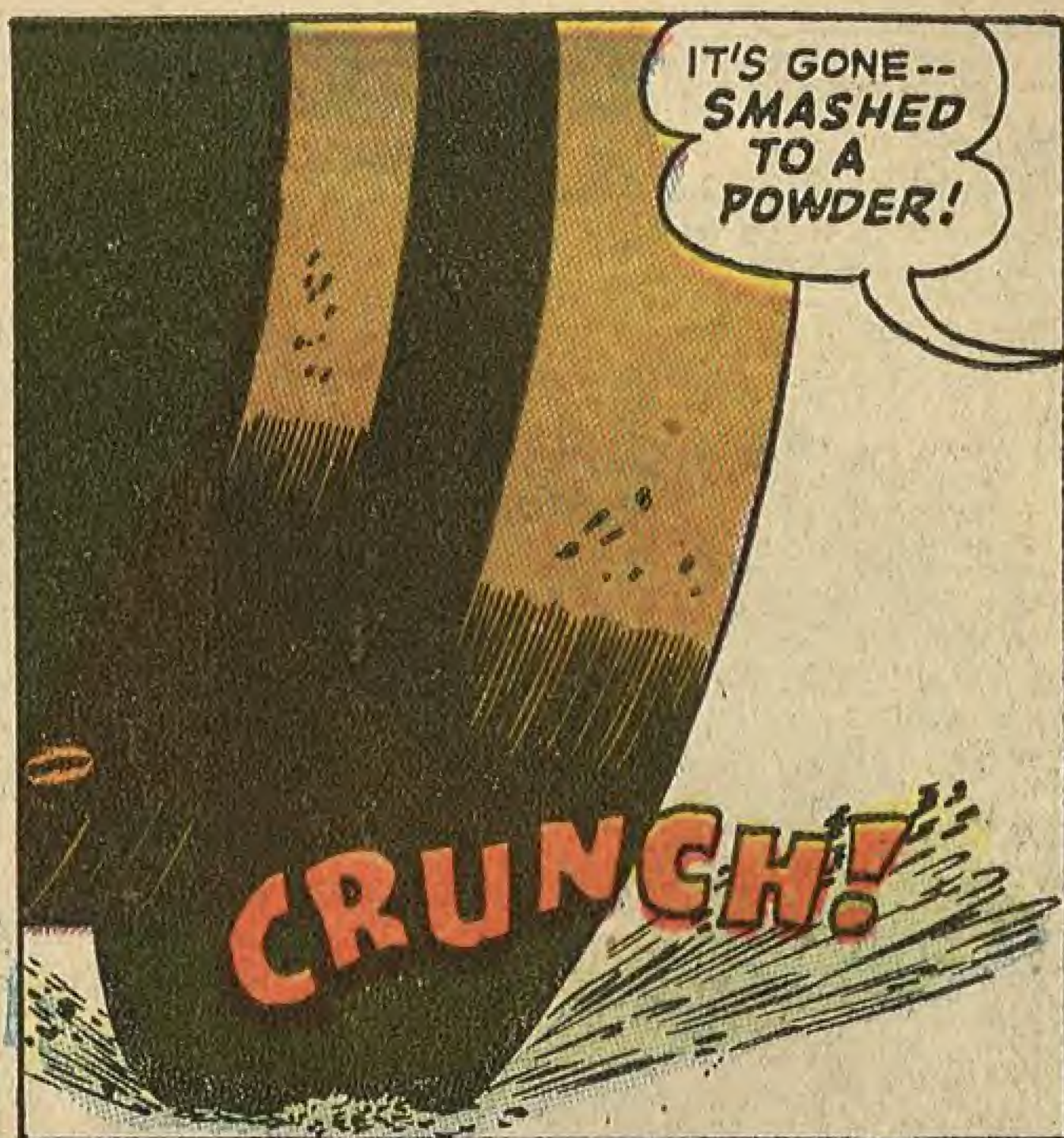
A HALF-HOUR LATER--AS GARY PACES A SUBURBAN RAILROAD PLATFORM--

NO USE FEELING JUMPY--THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN GET ME BACK TO THAT CAVE--SHORT OF PHYSICAL FORCE! AND YET IF SHE WASN'T SURE OF HER EVIL POWER, WHY DID SHE LET ME ESCAPE--WITH THIS?



UNEXPECTEDLY--

BLAZES--THE
BLOODSTONE!



IT'S GONE--
SMASHED
TO A
POWDER!

CRUNCH!



TOUGH BREAK,
BUD! IF THAT
STONE WAS
VALUABLE--
MAYBE YOU CAN
PUT IN A CLAIM!

SKIP IT! THERE'S
NOT MUCH SENSE
PICKING UP WHAT'S
LEFT--EXCEPT THAT
I'VE GOT WHAT YOU
MIGHT CALL A
PECULIAR YEN FOR
BLOODSTONES!

LATE THE FOLLOWING NIGHT--
WAITING IN HUSHED DARKNESS--

SURE, IT'S NORMAL TO USE
LIGHTS--BUT THAT MIGHT
INDICATE I'M AFRAID--AND
IMPLANT THAT SHE-FIEND'S
POWER OF SUGGESTION
IN MY MIND!



AS A SLOW HOUR PASSES--
HEAVY WITH THE THREAT OF
IMPENDING TERROR--

STRANGE--WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?
THERE'S NOTHING BUT DARKNESS--
BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE DEPTH--AND
MOVEMENT!



GREAT SCOTT! IT'S ARCHED
AND GAPING--IT'S A CAVE--
AND SOMETHING'S
COMING OUT!



I KNOW YOUR FACE--
I KNOW YOUR BLOOD--
DO YOU WONDER
THAT I'VE FOUND
YOU?

I MIGHT
HAVE KNOWN...
NO MATTER WHERE
I GO--THIS IS AN
EVIL THAT CAN'T
BE ELUDED!



OKAY, YOU'RE HERE -- BUT WHAT'LL IT GET YOU? A PHANTOM CAN'T USE FANGS!

NOT YET! BUT MY SPIRIT WILL BE A LURE YOU CANNOT RESIST--DRAWING YOU TO THE SPOT WHERE THE FANGS ARE WAITING!

AS THE MOCKING FIGURE FADES--

WAITING--
WAITING FOR
A VICTIM!



A LURE I CAN'T RESIST... AND IT'S TRUE-- THAT CAVE'S EXERTING AN EVIL ATTRACTION I CAN'T FIGHT OFF!



WITH THE DESPERATION OF A MAN PITTED AGAINST DOOM--

NO--I CAN'T FIGHT! BUT I CAN HOPE -- HOPE THAT MY ONE SMALL CHANCE WILL PRODUCE A MIRACLE!



HERE'S A TOAST TO TONIGHT! IT WILL BRING EITHER A BONDAGE WORSE THAN DEATH TO ME --OR IF A LONG SHOT PAYS OFF-- ANNIHILATION FOR HER!



AN HOUR LATER -- LIKE A THING ENSLAVED IN WILL AND BODY --

I KNOW IT WILL BE AN ORDEAL--SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE MY FLESH CREEP--BUT I CAN'T TURN AWAY FROM IT!

HAA! DID I SPEAK TRULY? YOU WILL HATE ME--YOU WILL BE REPELLED--BUT YOU WILL OBEY MY EVERY BIDDING!



YES--I MUST OBEY! BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT CAN END IT--SOMETHING WITH A HOLD NOT EVEN YOU CAN MATCH-- DEATH!

AND YOU HOPE FOR THAT --WHEN I LOVE YOU AS ONLY SOMETHING THAT IS HUNGERED FOR CAN BE LOVED? NO, YOU WILL NOT DIE--AS LONG AS I CAN DRAW YOU CLOSE --TOWARD MY FANGS!



AGAIN, THE HOT BREATH OF EVIL PANTS DOWN-- AND AS THE VAMPIRE DRAWS NEAR --

AND NOW...
NOW...

TIME SEEMS TO FADE IN THE SHADOWS--
AND THEN --

I MENTIONED SOMETHING
BEFORE -- BUT YOU WERE TOO
EAGER TO LET ME FINISH!
**THE BLOODSTONE
HAS BEEN DESTROYED!**

WHAT DOES
IT MATTER? I CAN
FORGET THE GEM
AS READILY AS I WILL
FORGET HIM--NOW
THAT I HAVE
FOUND YOU!



YOU -- AND WHEN I THINK
OF HOW I WILL ENSLAVE
YOU -- IT MAKES ME
GIDDY WITH DELIGHT!

ARE YOU SURE IT'S
THAT? OR COULD IT
BE THAT I SAVED THE
SMASHED BLOODSTONE
AND DRANK THE POWDER--

AND THAT BY NOW
IT'S COURGING
THROUGH TWO
BLOOD
STREAMS
-- MINE
AND
YOURS!



THAT'S WHAT
I MEANT BY
DEATH,
MONSTER --
**YOUR
DEATH!**

WHAT HAVE YOU SAVED BY OUTWITTING
ME-- **YOUR LIFE?** IF I MUST DIE, MY
FINAL FURY WILL BE SPENT IN TEARING
YOU APART! IF THIS MUST

BE MY TOMB--
IT WILL BE STAINED
WITH **YOUR
BLOOD!**



**CLAWS -- CAN BE FAR MORE --
TERRIBLE -- THAN FANGS!**



IN THE NEXT INSTANT-- WITH A CRY THAT TAPERS
OFF INTO THE TWITTER OF A STRICKEN BAT--

AGH-EEEEEE!



FOR A MOMENT, GARY PEERS INTO THE CLEFT-- AND
THEN -- STEPPING OUT INTO A MOONLIGHT PURGED
OF FEAR--

WHO COULD DENY SHE WAS EVIL --
AFTER KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED TO **ME?**
AND WHO COULD DOUBT SHE WAS **ANCIENT--**
WATCHING HER DIE -- AND THEN FINDING

**ANOTHER
SKELETON IN
THE VAMPIRE'S
GRAVE?**



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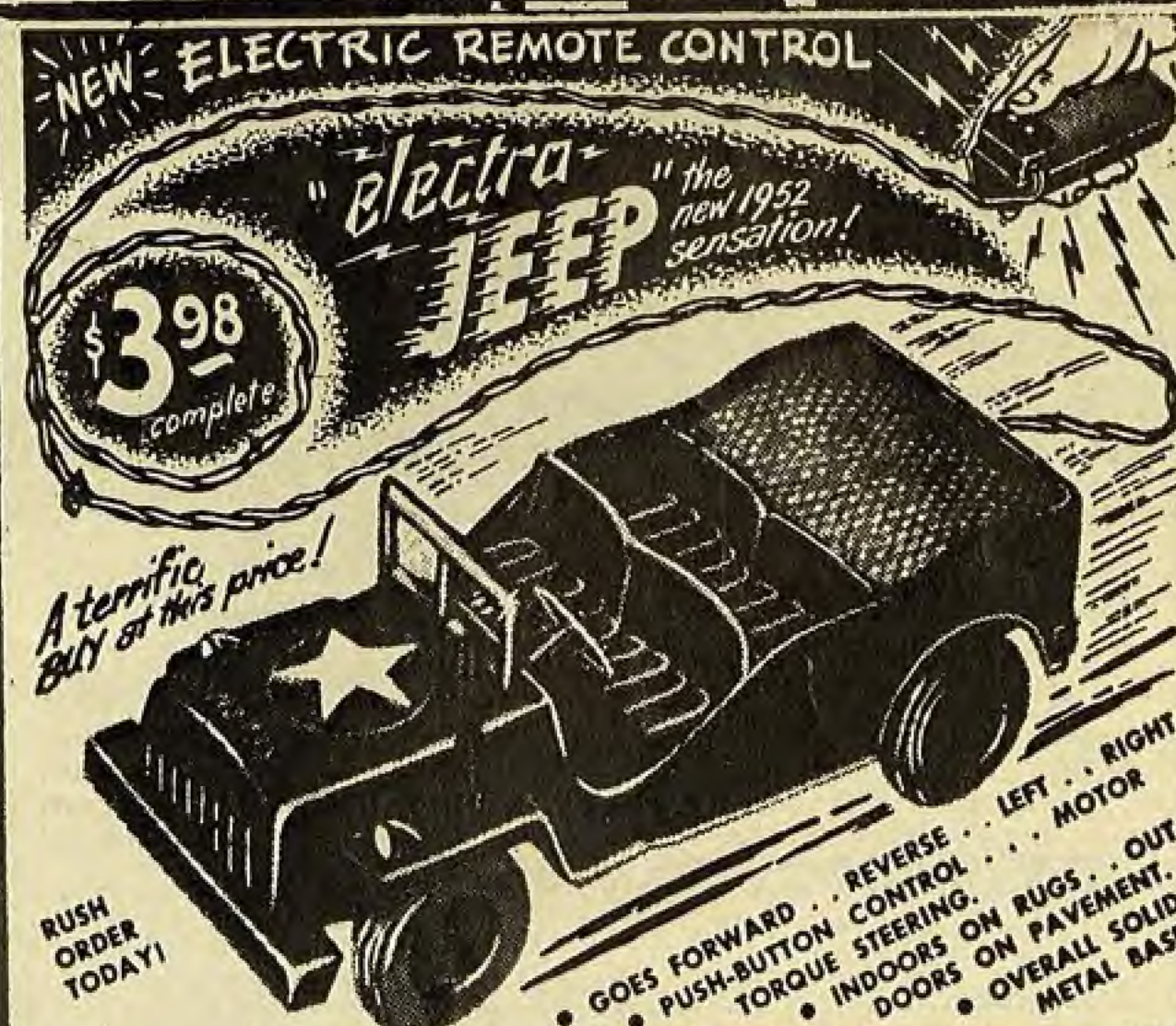
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